Fear and foraging in the ecosystem size spectrum generate diversity in

fish life histories

Kindsvater, Holly K.[1], Juan-Jordá, Maria-José[2,3], Dulvy, Nicholas K.[2], Horswill, Cat[4,5,6],

Matthiopoulos, Jason[7], Mangel, Marc[8,9]

1. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,
310 W. Campus Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24061, USA
2. Earth to Ocean Research Group, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University,
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6 Canada
3. AZTI, Marine Research, Basque Research and Technology Alliance (BRTA). Herrera Kaia,
Portualdea z/g, 20110 Pasaia – Gipuzkoa, Spain.
4. ZSL Institute of Zoology, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RY, UK
5. Centre for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, Department of Genetics, Evolution and
Environment, University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT, UK
6. Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Downing St, Cambridge CB2 3EJ, UK
7. Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine, Graham Kerr Building,
University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, Scotland.
8. Theoretical Ecology Group, Dept. of Biology, University of Bergen, Bergen 5020, Norway
9. Institute of Marine Sciences and Dept. of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, University of
California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA.
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Abstract

Understanding how fish growth and reproduction will adapt to changing environmental

conditions is a fundamental question in evolutionary ecology. Studies focused on the

physiological effects of climate change upon life histories and population demography often

ignore size-dependent foraging and risk of predation. We embedded a state-dependent energetic

model in an ecosystem size spectrum to model prey availability (foraging) and risk of predation

(fear) experienced by individual fish as they grow. We examined how spectrum richness and

temperature interact to shape growth, reproduction, and survival; we found that richer spectra led

to larger body sizes, but effects of temperature on body size were relatively small. We applied

our model to scenarios corresponding to species representing the three ecological lifestyles

(ecotypes) of tunas, in some cases including seasonal variation in conditions. We predicted

realistic patterns of growth of tunas and found that seasonality in resource accumulation and

compression of reproduction into short time periods favors growth to larger body sizes. Our

framework for predicting emergent life histories combines direct and indirect effects of

productivity (foodscapes), individual risk (fearscapes), and metabolic processes and offers a

promising approach to understand fish life history responses to changing ocean conditions.

Keywords – Body size evolution, energy budgets, metabolic theory, size spectra, state-

dependent models, temperature-size rule, global climate change

Introduction

Correlations between increased temperature and decreased body size have been documented for a variety of species (Gillooly et al. 2001, Kingsolver and Huey, 2008). The body sizes and population biomasses of aquatic species are adapting rapidly to human-induced environmental change (Oke et al. 2020), motivating the need for biophysical models to predict growth and reproduction in changing environmental conditions (Cheung et al. 2008, Cheung et al. 2010, Blanchard et al. 2012, Fernandes et al. 2020). Beyond thermal physiology, the evolutionary consequences resulting from changing ecosystem productivity (foodscapes) and predator abundance (fearscapes) are difficult to disentangle from the effects of environmental temperature or seasonality on growth and related life history traits (Daufresne et al. 2009, Audzijonyte and Richards 2018, Neubauer and Andersen 2019). Classic and recent advances predicting optimal growth and reproduction of harvested populations (Holt 1958; Beverton and Holt 1959; White et al. 2022) have been combined with size-structured community interactions to predict the evolution of life history traits in specific taxa (Shuter et al. 2016). This approach provides a promising foundation for predicting ecological and evolutionary responses to climate change. While specific taxa within an ecosystem will adapt according to contextual factors such as phylogenetic lineage, adaptive capacity, and environmental variability, models incorporating the roles of food and fearscapes, seasonality, and other metabolic processes could explain adaptive variation among closely related taxa and refine our mechanistic understanding of species' responses to changing climate conditions (Free et al. 2019).

Research on life-history evolution has shown that in ectothermic species such as fish, increased risk of predation and food availability both can select for earlier ages at maturation and more

frequent reproduction, but that growth rates can be slower or faster depending on the interaction

between body size, predation, and per-capita resource availability (Conover and Munch 2002;

Walsh and Reznick 2009, Hulthén et al 2021). Within and between ectothermic species,

development at higher temperatures can lead to smaller body sizes (Kingsolver and Huey 2008).

Well-established theory addresses how trade-offs among these life-history traits determines

individual body sizes and population demographic rates (Beverton and Holt 1959, Gadgil and

Bossert 1970, Kozlowski 1992, Kozlowski 1996), but theory addressing the interacting effects of

temperature and seasonality on growth is still developing (Varpe 2017). There is longstanding

interest in the mechanisms leading to biphasic (or asymptotic) growth patterns predicted by the

von Bertalanffy equation (Quince et al. 2008), as early models are based on simplistic

assumptions (Audzijonyte et al. 2022). These growth models struggle to explain latitudinal and

temporal trends in body size within and among species of fish (Audzijonyte et al. 2020),

suggesting that such models do not sufficiently capture the relevant physiological and ecological

drivers of fish life histories.

The role of metabolic requirements in shaping growth trajectories has been given increasing

attention (Jørgensen et al. 2016, Wong et al. 2021, White et al 2022). Physiological processes

can vary with the environmental temperature experienced by organisms (Brown et al, 2004,

Clarke and Johnston, 1999). The allometric scaling of metabolic costs in different temperature

regimes (known as the Metabolic Theory of Ecology [MTE]; Gillooly et al. 2001) has been used

to predict individual body size according to the benefits of growing large (to increase foraging

success and avoid predation), balanced against the costs of increased metabolic overhead and

diverting resources from reproduction to growth (Wong et al. 2021). More detailed models of

energetic allocation have linked variable environmental conditions to growth, reproduction, and

longevity (Kozłowski and Teriokhin 1999, Cichoń and Kozłowski, 2000, Lika and Kooijman

2003, Jorgensen and Fiksen 2006, Ejsmond et al. 2010, Chapman et al. 2011, Audzij*o*nyte et al.

2022). Understandably, the results of these models depend on specific assumptions made

regarding the relationship between resources, mortality, and individual size; no models have

addressed how seasonality in environmental conditions and spawning opportunities drive

emergent patterns of growth and longevity in the same model.

We hypothesize that including size-based community interactions, in addition to temperature, in

energetic models will reduce the number of *ad hoc* assumptions regarding mass-based foraging

success and risk of predation, allowing other environmental drivers such as overall ecosystem

productivity, temperature, and seasonal variation in these processes to be evaluated. This

approach could yield more realistic predictions of diversity in fish life histories, providing

significant insights into the mechanisms that determine adaptive responses to changing

environmental conditions.

In aquatic ecosystems, size spectra relationships are often used to represent community

interactions, as they connect body size, trophic level, and abundance across species (Sheldon et

al. 1977, Thygesen et al. 2005, Law et al. 2009, Sprules and Barth 2016, Christensen and

Andersen 2011, Andersen et al. 2016, Andersen 2019). In a community size spectrum, flow of

energy between trophic levels via consumption and predation rates are characterized by

individual mass, instead of species' identity (Benoît and Rochet 2004, Blanchard et al. 2009,

Andersen 2019). The key property of size spectra is that an individual's relative position (mass)

determines both its prey field (foodscape) and its risk of predation (fearscape). Individuals are

born small and grow through the size spectrum over their lifetime, consuming prey that are a

fraction of their own size. Furthermore, size-spectrum theory assumes the lower limit of prey

size preference depends on the profitability of the prey, and the upper limit depends on the

maximum gape size of the predator. These interactions could equally apply to interactions within

size-structured populations of the same species (i.e., cannibalism). Therefore, predation and

consumption rates determined by different areas under a size-spectrum curve could be used to

simultaneously characterize the mass-specific caloric resource availability (foodspace) and risk

of predation (fearscape) experienced by an individual as it grows (Benoît and Rochet 2004,

Giacomini et al. 2013, Shuter et al. 2016, Andersen 2019).

Here, we use an energetically based model combining size-dependent resources and risk of

predation (both derived from size-spectra) with size- and temperature-dependent physiological

requirements in an energetic model predicting the evolution of growth, maximum body size,

reproductive investment, and longevity in different environments. Allocation to growth,

reproduction, and maintenance in one month affects an individual's size, survival chances, and

resources for reproduction in the next. We define fitness as expected lifetime reproductive

success and determine its maximum value and the associated life history decisions using

stochastic dynamic programming (Clark and Mangel, 2000, Houston et al.1988, Mangel, 2015).

We examine general patterns in the life history evolution of fishes under different scenarios of

ecosystem productivity and environmental temperature.

We next investigate the evolution of growth, body sizes and reproductive patterns in tuna species

in varying environments, including seasonally varying conditions. Tunas (Family *Scombridae*)

exhibit a wide range of maximum body sizes (~ 40 cm - 400 cm), longevities (~ 4 - 41 years) and

reproductive patterns (Juan-Jorda et al. 2013, Horswill et al. 2019). Tunas are epipelagic species

found in temperate and tropical waters around the world's oceans with varying vertical,

latitudinal and seasonal distributions and movements. Confronting the predictions of our model

with data on the life history diversity observed in tuna species in different environmental

conditions gives us insight into the mechanisms underlying fish life histories and improve our

ability to predict their response to future climate scenarios. Where possible, we use values for

physiological processes measured for tunas, but we also consider the sensitivity of these

parameters to ensure generality of our results.

Methods

Using the size spectrum to infer per-mass rates of prey encounter and predation

Studies across many orders of magnitude find that the relationship between the numbers of

organisms and individual mass w is a power function with a scaling parameter κ and an exponent

λ, which has been empirically estimated to be close to -1 when mass is logarithmically scaled

(Sheldon et al. 1972, Trebilco et al. 2013, Sprules and Barth 2016, Hatton et al. 2021)

$$N(w) = \kappa w^{\lambda}$$ (1)

The Sheldon size spectrum, which follows from Eq. 1, is the distribution of total ecosystem

biomass $B(w)$ across body size classes, and is represented by $B(w) = N(w)w$. Based on

evidence from multiple ecosystems (Sprules and Barth 2016), total biomass slowly decreases as

individual mass increases; in log-log space, the spectrum – as originally conceived (Sheldon et al

1972) and recently confirmed (Hatton et al. 2021) – is nearly flat. We consider this index of

biomass to reflect whole-ecosystem productivity, as this representation of community size

spectra is not normalized by individual mass (Sprules and Barth 2016).   Since $N(1) = \kappa$, we

view κ as a metric of ecosystem productivity. In a log-log plot of Eq. 1, the y-intercept is the

natural log of κ.

Prior research suggests that this phenomenon of linear aquatic size spectra emerges from three

size-dependent eco-physiological processes: (1) the encounter rate of predators and prey; (2) the

preference of predators for prey of a given size; and (3) the limit to prey consumption imposed

by the size of the predator's stomach (the predator-prey mass ratio; Benoît and Rochet 2004,

Blanchard et al. 2017, Andersen 2019). Anderson (2019) derived a method to calculate the prey

available to individuals of mass w by relating the productivity of a spectrum to empirical

estimates of prey encounter rates, predator-prey mass ratios, and prey preferences. Following his

rationale, we assume that the prey biomass available per month to an individual is a concave

function of mass w, and scaled to be approximately three times the size spectrum productivity κ

(Andersen 2019). The empirical estimates of physiological processes used to simplify this

derivation are associated with a significant amount of variability among species within a size

class (Andersen 2019). However, as a starting point we assume that as a baseline the per-period

food available for an individual of mass w is represented by

$$B_{prey}(w) = 3\kappa w^{0.05} \tag{2}$$

This equation approximates the integral over the foodscape of prey biomass (in kg) available to

an individual of mass w each month (Fig. 1A). The foodscape is therefore the total biomass

available to the predator, and the range of sizes of prey that it takes. To address variability in the

threefold scaling factor, we chose to vary κ in subsequent analyses, representing ecosystem level

differences in productivity (abundance) or potentially differences among taxa.

We define the fearscape as an individuals' instantaneous risk of predation, integrated across sizes

of potential predators. For gape-limited taxa like fishes, a predator's prey field depends on its

encounter rate with prey in its preferred size range. This encounter rate (the clearance rate) is

typically measured in units of volume per time, as aquatic species forage in a three-dimensional

habitat (Kiørboe and Hirst 2014). Again, we follow Andersen (2019), and use an empirically

estimated constant of 0.07 to characterize the scaling of prey vulnerability with its mass, which is

based estimates of preference windows of predators and the volume of water each clears per

month that come from empirical distributions of prey sizes in predator guts (Ursin 1973). We

also define a coefficient h, which modifies the probability of consumption - how likely a predator

is to capture the focal individual (based on its hunger level or capture efficiency) - and use the

reported allometric exponent of -0.25 to represent how predation mortality scales with body size

(Figure 1B; Eq. 2.22 in Andersen 2019). From these, Anderson (2019) integrates over the

Sheldon spectrum and produces a relationship predicting the scaling of mortality risk for prey

$\mu_p(w)$ per month:

201                                 $$\mu_p(w) = 0.07hw^{-0.25} \tag{3}$$

We convert this instantaneous rate to the probability escaping from predators during each month

(Hilborn and Mangel 1997, Mangel 2006), so we can represent the probability an individual

survives from one month to the next $\gamma_{pred}(w)$ as:

$$\gamma_{pred}(w) = e^{-\mu_p(w)}$$ (4)

The resulting annual mortality curves are in Fig. 1B.

Defining physiological costs that depend on temperature and body mass

We assume metabolic costs that increase with body mass and environmental temperature (Clarke

2006). We model individual costs $C(w, \tau)$ (in joules) as a function of temperature τ in Kelvin,

following the general form introduced in the MTE (Gillooly et al. 2001):

$$C(w, \tau) = cw^\theta e^{\left(-E/k_B\tau\right)}$$ (5)

Evidence for the MTE suggests the activation energy E (the energy required for the reactions of

respiration and other metabolic processes) does not vary appreciably among taxa (Bernhardt et

al. 2018); Boltzmann's constant k_B also does not vary. The normalization coefficient c accounts

for differences among taxonomic groups in the intercepts of the linear relationship that arise

from second-order effects such as stoichiometry or respiratory surface areas (Bigman et al 2021).

The slope of this relationship in log space, θ, is strikingly similar among taxa (Brown et al.

2004). We use a value for θ estimated from physiological studies on tunas (Table 1) but vary it in

sensitivity analyses. Note that τ in Eq. 5 is Kelvin, but hereafter we discuss temperatures in units

of Celsius. We use this general formula for scaling of metabolic costs at different temperatures τ

to describe the monthly energetic expenses of an individual of mass w (Fig 1C).

Figure 1. Examples of allometric relationships between individual mass and (A) income (in kg per month); (B) the scaling of predation with size and its interaction with predator efficiency (or hunger) h, and (C) metabolic costs, which also scale with temperature τ (on the graph, it is presented in degrees Celsius, ℃; values used in Kelvin are 285, 290, 295 and 300K). Note that these curves represent a subset of values considered.

Defining fitness and determining the optimal allocation strategy

In Equations 2, 4, and 5, we define mass-specific food availability, predation risk, and costs,

allowing us to examine the variables influencing growth and reproduction in a common currency

of an individual's energy budget (Fig. 1). All parameters are defined and their values reported in

Table 1. To find the optimal life history strategy in different scenarios of ecosystem productivity

and temperature conditions, including seasonal variation, we developed a model of an

individual's energy budget, tracking two physiological state variables, the body length l and

energy (lipid) stores s of an individual, which vary dynamically over an individual's lifetime

(Fig. 2). Following the conventions for dynamic state-variable models, we denote the state

variables l and s are lowercase in the dynamic programming equation, representing the fact they

are iterated values. Later, when we refer to specific values of the state variables, we use

uppercase L and S.

We define fitness as expected lifetime reproduction, averaged over the stochastic process of

survival, which we calculate numerically using stochastic dynamic programming (Houston et al.

1988; Clark and Mangel 2000, Mangel, 2015). This method allows us to consider how individual

age and physiological state (energy stores and body length) affect the optimal trade-off between

growth and reproduction in the context of lifetime fitness. We assume that an individual allocates

a proportion of its budget to growth and reproduction on monthly time intervals. Our choice to

model allocation to growth and reproduction as proportions of an individual's energy budget

builds on prior dynamic state-variable models of fish growth (Jørgensen and Fiksen 2006,

Chapman et al. 2011).

Given specific values of $L(t)$ and $S(t)$, representing individual length and stores at the start of

month t, we calculate structural mass $W(t)$ from length with a standard cubic function (Froese

2006):

$$W(t) = aL(t)^3 \tag{6}$$

and assume that only structural mass is relevant for size-dependent gains (B_{prey}) and costs (Fig.

2). We convert from mass to units of energy (joules) and back using a conversion factor

estimated for tunas ($\rho = 4.2 \times 10^6$ J/kg (Chapman et al 2011)) but that could take other values

for other species. Each month, an individual acquires energy from food, determined by their

structural mass w via Eq. 2. We then allow the individual to allocate proportions of its energy

budget (which includes income and any stored energy) to growth (g) and reproduction (r).

$$*\text{Is } s(t) \cdot (1 - r - g) - C(w, \tau) + B_{prey}(w) \geq vw(t)\rho?$$

Figure 2. Schematic overview of the optimization algorithm calculating the two dynamically varying state variables, body length $l(t)$ and energy stores $s(t)$ within each month t, as well as current and expected fitness. Arrows represent the flow of energy or decisions. Round shapes represent inputs; rectangular shapes are model states and outputs (fitness and fate); diamonds are decisions. Note that $l(t)$ and $w(t)$ are related through Eq. 6. Both B_{prey} and μ_p are determined by the size spectrum. Survival to the next time step depends on (1) whether there is sufficient energy to allocate to growth and reproduction, pay costs, and exceed the critical threshold for lipid stores v (which varies according to structural mass), and (2) the mass-dependent risk of predation μ_p.

Given an individual of with specific values for length $L(t)$ and energy stores $S(t)$, we calculate

the increment of growth ΔL expected for each possible proportional allocation g. We convert

this fraction of lipid stores from joules to the equivalent mass $(g \frac{S(t)}{\rho})$, and add it to existing mass,

such that $W(t+1) = W(t) + g\frac{S(t)}{\rho}$. We then calculate the new length by rearranging the mass-

length relationship $W(t) = aL(t)^3$:

$$L(t+1) = \left[\frac{1}{a}\left(L(t)^3 + g\frac{S(t)}{\rho}\right)\right]^{1/3} \tag{7}$$

We repeat this for every possible combination of values of the state variables, l and s. For all

$L(t) = l$ and $S(t) = $ s, we can determine the growth increment ΔL:

$$\Delta L(l, s, g) = \left[\frac{1}{a}\left(l(t)^3 + g\frac{s(t)}{\rho}\right)\right]^{1/3} - l \tag{8}$$

Values for proportional allocation of lipid stores to reproduction r, along with g, are combined to

determine the dynamics of energy stores and length from one month to the next:

$$S(t+1) = B_{prey}(W(t)) - C(W(t), \tau) - (r+g)\cdot S(t)$$

$$L(t+1) = L(t) + \Delta L(L(t), S(t), g) \tag{9}$$

We assume that both stored energy and reproduction are limited by an individual's structural

mass (which in turn depends on its length). These constraints represent limits on the amount of

lipid that it is realistic to store, and mass of gametes that can be produced, given the capacity of

the body cavity. If the proportions of energy allocated to reproduction and growth are less than

100% (meaning $r + g < 1$), the remaining energy is stored for future use, as long as total

reserves do not exceed 60% of structural mass. This value is somewhat arbitrary but exploratory

analyses suggest it does not have a strong effect on the results presented here because in practice

individuals do not store their energy long enough to come close to exceeding this limit. Second,

we assume that reproductive output (in units of kg) is constrained so that it cannot exceed a fixed

proportion of φ of structural mass $w(t)$, so that the following condition must be met:

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$$\frac{rS(t)}{\rho} \leq \varphi w(l, t) \tag{10}$$

This size-based limit on total reproduction is used in the calculation of current fitness.

Current fitness

We let $R(r, s, l, t)$ denote the increment in fitness in month t when $L(t) = l$, $S(t) = s$, and a

fraction of stores r is allocated to current reproduction. We model this constraint with an

asymptotic function, such that the fitness increment increases smoothly toward the maximum

possible for the given length *l(t):*

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$$R(r, s, l, t) = \frac{rs}{1 + (rs/\varphi w(l))f} \tag{11}$$

The asymptotic value of this function depends on the value of *f* in the denominator, which

controls the abruptness of the constraint on current fitness (Supp. Fig. 1). In other words, the

steepness of the multivariate landscape around the fitness optima is modulated by *f.* For

simplicity, we assume $f = 1$ for all results presented hereafter. In that case, when $\varphi w(l, t) \gg$

$\frac{rs}{\rho}$, $R(r, s, l, t) \sim rs$ and when $rs \gg \varphi w(l, t)$, then $R(r, s, l, t) \sim \varphi w(l)$.

Expected future fitness

At any age, expected fitness is determined by the sum of current reproduction and accumulated

future reproduction, which is calculated assuming the individual behaves optimally at all future

ages. This requires we calculate the future states (length and lipid stores) given each combination

of allocation to growth and reproduction. We denote potential values of future states as l' and s'.

In light of Eqs 7-11 these are

$$l'(l, s, g) = l + \Delta l(l, s, g)$$

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$$s'(l, s, r, g) = B_{prey}\big(w(l)\big) - C\big(w(l), \tau\big) - (r + g)s \qquad (12)$$

323 where $w(l)$ is the structural mass of an individual of length l. At the end of the month, if an

324 individual's lipid stores fall below the critical threshold for its mass (its expenditures have

325 exceeded its energy budget), it starves (Supp. Fig. 2). We let $\gamma_s(s, l)$ denote the probability of

326 avoiding starvation in the current time and model it as

$$\gamma_s(s, l) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-q(s - \upsilon w(l)\rho)}} \qquad (13)$$

involving two new parameters υ and q. The parameter υ determines the level of stores at which

starvation begins and q is a shape parameter. When $s = \upsilon w(l)\rho$, the right-hand side of Eq. 13 is

always ½. When q is large, then the right-hand side of Eq. 13 is approximately 1 when $s >$

$\upsilon w(l)\rho$ and 0 otherwise. Thus, this function specifies that if combined allocation to growth and

reproduction causes an individual's lipid stores to decrease below the critical value for its mass

the probability of survival decreases smoothly toward zero (See Supp. Fig. 2 for more details).

Equations 7-13 characterize changes in individual state and in fitness, given the possible monthly

allocation strategies (r and s). With these functions in place, we can find the allocation strategy

that maximizes current and future fitness at every age until the age of senescence or maximum

lifespan, T, is reached (for all scenarios, we assumed the maximum lifespan of $T = 216$ months

or 18 years). We define $V(l, s, t)$ as the maximum expected accumulated reproduction between

time t and T, given size $L(t) = l$ and lipid stores $S(t) = s$. Since there can be no

accumulated reproduction after T, we have the end condition $V(l, s, T) = 0$. Expected future

fitness at every age $t < T$ is found by solving the stochastic dynamic programming equation

$$V(l, s, t + 1) = \max_{g,r}\left[R(r, l, s, t) + \gamma_{pred}(w) \cdot \gamma_s(s, l) \cdot V\big((l'(l, s, g), s'(l, s, r, g), t)\big)\right] \quad (14)$$

The first term of the on the right-hand side of Eq. 14 represents reproduction in month t. The

second term represents expected future reproduction, discounted by the probability of surviving

predation $\gamma_{pred}(w)$ and starvation $\gamma_s(s, l)$, When these are combined, we obtain expected

lifetime reproduction from time t onwards, given that size $L(t) = l$ and lipid stores $S(t) = s$.

The dynamic programming algorithm (Mangel and Clark 1988; Houston and MacNamara 1999)

iterates over all viable combinations of l and s, at each time t, and stores the fitness of each

allocation strategy. The optimal strategy (marked with an asterisk) at time t is the combination

g^* and r^* associated with the greatest current and future fitness. Further details of the

optimization algorithm are given in the Appendix. In Supp. Fig 3 we illustrate the array for both

allocation strategies ($g*(l,s,t)$ and $r*(l,s,t)$) at two ages, for all possible combinations of length

and lipid stores.

Calculating the fate of individuals allocating optimally

We used a Monte Carlo simulation to calculate the accumulating probability of mortality as an

individual ages, following the allocation rules generated by the solution of Eq. 14, which

provides optimal allocation rules for the range of state values specified in our numerical

algorithm. Some combinations of states (length, lipid stores and age) will not arise naturally and

others are inviable (the dark blue regions of Supp. Fig. 3). Therefore, to predict the relationships

between length, lipid stores, and age that will be observed in nature, we simulate the expected

fates of an individual that is born at a given size, and allocates energy according to the optimal

growth and reproduction fractions given by the solution to Eq. 14. We record the body length

and reproductive output in each subsequent month of an individual's life, and calculate its

probability of survival, given both the risk of starvation and the risk of predation. We use the age

past which the cumulative chance of survival is less than 3% as the expected lifespan. For

simplicity, we consider reproductive output in units of energy (joules) rather than considering

allocation to offspring size and number (Kindsvater et al. 2010); this can include migration costs.

We did not build in any assumptions about age at maturation, but rather let maturation patterns,

along with natural trade-offs between growth and reproduction (Supp. Fig. 3) emerge from

patterns of allocation.

Scenarios for environmental variation

We used our model to predict a range of fish life histories (growth, reproduction, and survival)

that are evolutionarily advantageous across different scenarios of ecosystem productivity and

environmental temperatures. To do this, we developed different productivity and temperature

scenarios corresponding to different conditions in the marine environment, and impose different

metabolic costs to individuals according to Eq. 5. We solved for the optimal life histories under

different temperatures (τ in Eq. 5 in units of Kelvin), converted to Celsius and ranging from

11.85 to 26.85 °C (285-300 K) in five degree intervals. We considered these temperature ranges

in different scenarios for ecosystem productivity, for which κ ranged from one to five. We

considered factorial combinations of these parameters to understand the implications of their

interactions for the evolution of fish life histories.

Case study predicting life history diversity of tunas (Scombridae).

We developed a case study for tunas to examine if our model can predict the general patterns of

life history variation in tunas. There are 15 species of tunas (Family *Scombridae*, genera

Allothunnus, *Auxis*, *Euthynnus*, *Katsuwonus*, *Thunnus*). These species inhabit a wide range of

environmental conditions in marine ecosystems. Tuna species can be found in coastal and

oceanic pelagic waters, and have wide geographic distributions, ranging from the tropics to

higher temperate latitudes with some degree of habitat partitioning by depth. Tropical tuna

species can spawn throughout the year, while the subtropical and temperate tunas undergo

seasonal migrations back to warm waters for spawning (Juan-Jordá et al 2013, Horswill et al

2019). Paleoceanographic evidence suggests that ancestral tunas evolved in a tropical

environment approximately 60 million years ago (Monsch 2000) and over time they have

diversified and evolved a suite of morphological and physiological adaptations that have allowed

them to expand their distributions into more temperate environments or deeper colder waters

where they can encounter higher prey densities to support their high somatic and gonadal growth

rates (Dickson and Graham 2004). Reflecting their tropical ancestor, all tunas (except for the

slender tuna *Allothunnus fallai*) spawn in warm waters, requiring a sea surface temperature of at

least 24 °C (Schaefer 2001). This is a key aspect of their reproductive biology that we include in

our model scenarios.

To connect our mechanistic model more explicitly with the observed patterns of life history

variation in tunas, we followed a proposed categorization of tunas into three ecological lifestyles,

(Bernal et al. 2017). The three general lifestyles are based on species-specific vertical,

latitudinal, and temporal (seasonal) distributions and movement patterns of tunas (Figure 3;

Bernal et al. 2009, Bernal 2011, Bernal et al. 2017). The first ecological lifestyle represents a

tuna species that largely remain within the warmer and well-oxygenated surface layer above the

thermocline (generally above 20 °C) during both day and night. These tuna species have limited

vertical movements as they do not descend below the thermocline (Figure 3). Coastal species,

such as the tropical frigate tuna *(Auxis thazard)* may typify this group. The second ecological

lifestyle represents tuna species that spend the majority of the time above the thermocline

(generally above 20 °C) but also visit depths below the thermocline for foraging (Figure 4). The

oceanic species of yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) with year-round tropical distributions

typifies this group. Its vertical movement exposes this species to a wider range of temperatures

and to less-oxygenated waters at depth but only for short periods of time because this species is

not hypoxia tolerant (Schaefer et al. 2009). The third ecological lifestyle characterizes tuna

species that are exposed to a wider range of environmental conditions and spend significant

Figure 3. Three representative ecological lifestyles of tunas and their distribution patterns based on their latitudinal and vertical movements. Characteristic spawning and foraging grounds are shown for each lifestyle; examples are the tropical shallow-diving frigate tuna *Auxis thazard*, tropical deep-diving yellowfin tuna *Thunnus albacares,* and temperate deep-diving Atlantic bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*. Fish silhouettes represent the depth distribution where species spend most of their time. The thermocline is defined as the depth range within which the water temperature changes rapidly and separates the water column into the upper well-mixed surface layer (water above 20 °C) and the deeper waters (waters below 15 °C). Figure modified from Bernal et al. 2009 and Bernal et al 2017.

periods of time in colder waters (Figure 3). The oceanic and temperate Atlantic bluefin tuna

(*Thunnus thynnus*) are one species that typifies this group, spending most of the year at higher

latitudes in colder and more productive waters between the upper mixed later and the cooler deep

waters below the thermocline, and migrating to warmer waters for spawning (Bernal et al. 2017).

To examine whether our model could predict these three broad ecological lifestyles of tunas, we

modelled environmental scenarios corresponding to each lifestyle in terms of temperature,

ecosystem productivity, and seasonality. We chose parameters based on the results of our general

model., but also added seasonal fluctuations in temperature to represent the bluefin tuna

migration from temperate, productive waters to their tropical spawning grounds. We then asked

whether the traits emerging in these scenarios matched the range of reported sizes of three

representative species corresponding to each lifestyle (Juan-Jordá et al. 2016).

Sensitivity analyses

We ran a series of tests to examine how our choices of parameters in the size spectrum influence

model predictions. Specifically, we varied values of h (representing efficiency in prey capture or

hunger levels) in the predation function (Eq. 3) and φ (the fraction of body mass that can be

devoted to reproduction) in the reproductive constraint (Eq. 10). We also conducted sensitivity

analyses in which we varied the scale and shape coefficients in the metabolic cost function (c and

θ, respectively, in Eq. 5). Motivated by our tuna case study, we also varied seasonality in

resources, temperature, and spawning. We considered seasonal environments in which only

resources and only temperature varied, to understand how these factors alone contributed to

observed variation in body size and reproductive output. We additionally considered growth and

reproductive patterns with an expanded the warm season (where individuals could spawn in

warm temperatures for six months of the year, instead of three). Finally, we determined in

preliminary analyses that the maximum lifespan T did not strongly affect model results, because

most individuals reach a maximum body size well before the final time T.

Results

Our model produces age-specific relationships between body size (length, from which we

calculate mass using Eq. 6) and reproduction that correspond to a range of fish life histories. In

general, we found that individuals allocated energy to growth early in life and shifted this

allocation to reproduction in later life. An asymptotic growth pattern naturally emerged from the

model, after a period of exponential growth early in life (Fig. 4A). Ecosystem productivity (κ)

alone generated a range of maximum body sizes, from less than 100 cm at low levels of

productivity to well over 350 cm (Fig. 4A). Across scenarios of ecosystem productivity, the

predicted trajectories for individual growth were identical in early life. However, growth slowed

earlier in lower productivity environments (Fig. 4A). For all life histories, allocation to

reproduction began at very low levels sometime during the individual's second year (Fig. 4B)

and increased steadily as the individual aged until it reached a maximum. Both the rate at which

reproduction increased with size and the maximum reproductive output were consistently greater

with increased ecosystem productivity (Fig. 4B). We also found the pattern of age-specific

mortality was very similar in early life for all productivities κ, but that lifespan increased

predictably as asymptotic body size increased (Supp. Fig. 5).

Figure 4. (A) Growth (size at age) and (B) Expected reproductive output of individuals in different productivity κ scenarios. Each curve ends when an individual's expected survival chances are less than 3%. Temperature in every scenario was constant at 16.85 °C, and h was constant at 8. The reproductive output was smoothed using the loess tool in R; data points can be found in Supp. Fig. 4.

When we compared the interacting effects of ecosystem productivity (κ) and environmental

temperature (τ) on patterns of growth and reproductive allocation, we found the effects of

temperature on body size and reproductive output were relatively small (Fig. 5). The biggest

differences emerged in highly productive environments with dramatic increases in temperature.

Specifically, when average temperature increased by 10 degrees (e.g., from 11.85 to 21.85 °C or

from 16.85 to 26.85 °C), maximum body sizes were 3-10% smaller, with the largest differences

occurring when $\kappa = 5$ (specific values in Fig. 5 are reported in Supp. Table 1). At the same time,

these increases in temperature led to concomitant reductions in lifetime reproductive output that

ranged from 3-10% (Fig 5B). However, it is important to note that comparing thermal increases

in 5-degree intervals only generated minor (3- 5%) decreases in growth and reproduction, unless

both predators and prey were scarce ($\kappa \leq 0.5$, Supp. Table 1).

Figure 5. (A) Maximum body size and (B) Expected lifetime reproductive output (in kg) of individuals plotted against a range of productivity scenarios. Color of points corresponds to differences in average annual temperature in ℃.

The interacting effects of temperature and productivity on body size suggests that when both

prey and predators are abundant, the benefits of growing large outweigh associated increases in

metabolic costs. We also found the effect of temperature on survival was indirectly expressed

through body size, i.e., where temperature influenced asymptotic body size (Fig. 5A) it had a

predictable effect on lifespan. In other words, when individuals reduced growth and remained

smaller in thermally taxing conditions to avoid being unable to meet their energetic requirements

for maintenance, it equates to an increased risk of predation and thus shorter lifespans. In

sensitivity analyses, we varied the parameter h, representing predator efficiency or hunger level

(Eq. 3; Andersen 2019), to change the allometric properties of the risk of predation (Supp. Fig.

6). However, while varying this parameter affected the realized lifespans, it did not dramatically

change individual growth trajectories or patterns of size-specific reproduction (Supp. Fig. 6).

By contrast, the constraint on the amount of lipid stores that can be spent each month on

reproduction, φ, was of more importance for growth because it depends directly on the

individual's structural mass. This parameter contributes biological realism to the state dynamics,

but is difficult to measure or estimate directly, especially for fish that spawn multiple times per

year, because often little is known about the frequency of spawning. In sensitivity analyses, we

found that making this constraint more stringent (e.g., decreasing φ from 0.2 to 0.1) led to

increased body sizes at both high and low productivity values (Supp. Fig. 7).

One of our aims is ultimately to address the life history variation observed in tunas, so

throughout we used estimates of parameters for the metabolic cost function that were measured

experimentally for tuna species (Clarke and Johnston 1999). However, to understand if the

relatively small effect of increased temperatures on body size in Figure 5 is robust to differences

in physiological costs, we conducted sensitivity analyses in which the shape and allometric

scaling of costs varied (Supp. Figs. 8 and 9). We confirmed that our choice of parameters for this

function had relatively minor influences on growth and reproduction (consistent with the effect

of temperature), with the exception of an extreme scenario when the cost scaling coefficient c

increased by a factor of 10 (Supp. Fig. 9). This outlier scenario confirms that our model is

working correctly (i.e., it is possible to eventually find thermal costs severe enough to change our

results), but that our estimates for the parameterization of metabolic costs are unlikely to be

unrealistically biasing our broader conclusions.

The growth, body size, and reproductive patterns that emerged in three environmental scenarios

corresponding to each of the three tuna lifestyles outlined in Fig. 3 qualitatively matched the life

history of each representative species (Figure 6, Table 2). In the environmental scenario

representing the tropical shallow-diving lifestyle, we predicted individual body sizes of less than

100 cm. Less than 3% of individuals survived past 10 years of age and they reproduced

continuously at relatively low levels (left column, Figure 6). These predicted traits are similar to

those of frigate tuna *Auxis thazard,* a tropical shallow-diving tuna species with small body size.

In the environmental scenario matching the tropical deep-diving lifestyle, we predicted growth to

sizes well over 200 cm, lifespans of less than 15 years, and continuous reproductive output that

increases over the individual's life (middle column, Figure 6, Table 2). While we believe this is

consistent with the life histories of tropical deep-diving tuna species such as yellowfin tuna

Thunnus albacares, lifetime reproductive patterns of these batch-spawning species are not well

known (Horswill et al. 2019). In the environmental scenario matching the lifestyle of temperate

deep-diving tunas, such as Atlantic bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thunnus,* we predicted the maximum

body sizes exceeded 350 cm and individuals were predicted to live much longer than 18 years

(right column, Figure 6, Table 2). Spawning was constrained to be seasonal in tunas in the third

ecological lifestyle (i.e., spawning could only occur in temperatures above 24 °C, which we

specified individuals experienced for three months of the year).

Figure 6. Growth (top row) and reproduction (bottom row) predicted by our model in each of the three representative environmental scenarios corresponding to the three ecological lifestyles of tunas (columns). With the exception of C and F, all curves end at the age when less than 3% of the population is expected to survive, representing the cohort lifespan. A and D represent tropical shallow-diving tuna species such as the frigate tuna *Auxis thazard*. B and E represent tropical deep-diving tuna species such as yellowfin tuna *Thunnus albacares*. C and F represent temperate deep-diving species such as Atlantic bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*, which migrate seasonally from higher latitudes with colder and productive waters to less productive and warmer waters. At age 18, more than 10% of individuals in the temperate deep-diving lifestyle were still alive and are likely to live much longer (C,F). As in Fig. 4, the reproductive output in panels D-E was smoothed using the loess function. Parameters are found in Table 2.

Analysis of seasonality in temperature and spectrum productivity.

The results of the tuna case study yielded an unexpected pattern: when environmental

temperature and ecosystem productivity varied seasonally, individuals grew to be 14% larger

than the size observed constant scenarios that are otherwise comparable in terms of productivity

(κ) and temperature (τ) (Figure 5; Supp. Table 2). To investigate the differential effects of

seasonality in temperature (in which species spawn for three months in waters that are 9 degrees

warmer than their winter foraging grounds) and in productivity (which increases threefold during

winter months), we conducted several follow-up comparisons. In Figure 7 we plot a range of

values for average productivity and the body size and reproduction patterns that emerge in

different seasonality scenarios. Specifically, we compared four scenarios across a range of

ecosystem productivities: (i) the scenario when temperature increased during the spawning

season but productivity did not change (ii) a threefold increase in productivity for nine months

(with constant temperature throughout the year) (iii) three months of seasonality in both

temperature and productivity (as in Fig. 6C,F), (ii) predictions from the constant scenario when

$\tau = 16.85$ °C (from Fig. 5).

Figure 7. (A) Maximum body size and (B) Expected lifetime reproductive output (in kg) of individuals plotted in different scenarios of seasonality in spawning, temperature, and productivity. In each scenario, the cool season or baseline temperature was 16.85 ℃. In all three seasonal scenarios, spawning activity was limited to three months.

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Figure 7 illustrates that the pattern of increased body size in seasonal environments (relative to

constant environments) and consistent increases in length of 12-16% are predicted for a range of

seasonality and productivity scenarios (Supp. Table 2). Scenarios with increased temperature or

increased productivity alone led to larger body sizes, comparable to the increase expected in the

fully seasonal scenario (Fig. 7A). In Supp. Table 2 we report specific values of body length for

different productivity and seasonality combinations to illustrate effects of temperature and

productivity alone are consistently comparable to those when combined. Expected lifetime

reproduction is markedly lower in seasonal environments when spawning is limited to three

months of the year. From this set of analyses, we infer that resources and temperature effects on

energetic budgets are not the primary drivers of larger body sizes in our model. Rather, the

compression of reproductive opportunities into three months of the year, and the temporal

separation of reproduction from the most valuable foraging opportunities, favors increased

allocation to growth overall. To further understand this effect, we varied spawning season length

and reproductive constraints. In Supp. Fig 10 we compare body sizes in environments in which

spawning seasons lasted six months (i.e., warmer temperatures and reduced foraging

opportunities lasted twice as long). We also modelled seasonality in resources and temperature,

while allowing reproduction to occur year-round. When individuals spawned in warm, low

productivity ecosystems for six months instead of three, asymptotic body lengths were smaller.

Furthermore, when reproduction was unconstrained, but individuals experienced warm, low

productivity conditions for three months of the year, body sizes were again smaller and

comparable to the scenario with seasonality in spawning for six months (Supp Fig. 10).

Discussion

Changes in environmental temperature and ecosystem productivity have been occurring for

decades and have been shown to affect fish recruitment, growth, and fishery productivity (Free et

al. 2019; Oke et al. 2020). There have been several mechanisms proposed to explain these

changes (Fernandes et al. 2020). Early models based on physiology predicted that increased

temperature will lead to reduced growth and smaller body sizes (Cheung et al. 2008), yet have

been countered by recent experimental evidence showing growth is less affected by temperature

than reproductive allocation (Wootton et al. 2022), and that metabolic rate can adapt to increased

temperatures (Pilakouta et al. 2020). Physiological models have ignored ecological interactions

because it has been challenging to represent and evaluate the effects of the food- and fearscape

upon somatic growth. To address this gap, we developed a general model incorporating insights

from size spectra theory to parametrize the risk of predation (fearscape) and the availability of

prey (foodscape) for individuals of different sizes. We predicted emergent body sizes and

reproductive and mortality patterns in the context of ecosystem food web interactions,

represented by size spectra.

Here, we introduce and approach integrating community processes, including size-specific

foraging success and predation risk, into a model of individual fitness. Our model and results

build on prior models of life history traits grounded in energy budgets (Ejsmond et al. 2010;

Jusup et al 2011) in which increased allocation to reproduction leads to a slowdown in growth

rate with age. Alternatively, asymptotic growth patterns have been predicted by physiological

models that broadly assume surface uptake areas, relative to the volume of metabolically

available mass, leads to intrinsic geometric constraints causing asymptotic growth (von

Bertalanffy 1960, Pauly 2010). In our model, multiple (mainly extrinsic) ecological mechanisms

led to slowing of growth and emergence of an asymptotic size in each environment. Notably,

unlike previous models, in our models the onset of reproduction alone does not correspond

immediately to decreasing growth rates and explain where asymptotic body sizes emerge.

Instead, the availability of prey, physical and temporal limits on resource intake, the risk of

predation, and constraints on gonad size and reproductive timing all increase the advantage of

growing to larger body sizes; these advantages are balanced against metabolic demands and the

actual energetic requirements of growth.

Consistent with expectations, our model predicted larger maximum body sizes, greater

reproductive output, and longer lifespans when resources were plentiful; by contrast, in less

productive ecosystems, individuals were small, with shorter lifespans. Across a range of

temperatures, the benefits of growing large through the foodscape and fearscape outweighed the

increase in metabolic costs until very large sizes or very dramatic increases in temperature. For

example, although our model predicted smaller body sizes and decreased lifetime reproduction at

higher temperatures when both predators and prey were scarce, these differences were relatively

small until average temperatures increased by 10-15 ℃. Ecosystem productivity κ had a much

stronger influence on our results than any of our other parameters. One exception came when

estimating age-specific mortality of each environment, which was more sensitive to our choice of

the value representing variation due to predator satiation or efficiency in prey capture ($h,$ Eq. 3).

However, this process did not substantially change growth trajectories.

We used variation among tuna ecological lifestyles as a motivation for our model

parameterizations and comparisons, while also aiming to provide general insights. We

successfully predicted growth patterns that are consistent with species representing each

ecological lifestyle (Fig. 6). Unexpectedly, we found an effect of seasonal variation on body

size, where individuals grew larger when they experienced higher productivity or colder

temperatures for part of the year (but average productivities were similar). Further investigation

revealed this effect is present with seasonal variation in temperature or in productivity alone, and

that these effects were not additive nor interactive (Fig. 7, Supp. Table 2), which rules out

explanations based on metabolic costs and strongly supports the conclusion that growth is driven

by the limited time available for reproduction, coupled with the opportunity to forage and store

energy, but not reproduce, the rest of the year. These results could explain giantism in polar

environments. For fishes like tunas, which often exhibit a combination of capital and income

breeding, and for which reproduction is determined by temperature, warmer conditions will

eventually allow spawning at higher latitudes for longer periods. Our results suggest that

cascading effects on their growth are not easily predicted and will depend on how warming

waters reverberate through the size spectrum.

Our model illustrates that predicting responses in growth and reproduction in changing

environments is complex, because optimal strategies responding to selective pressures from

many factors, including constraints on storage and reproduction, physiology, and the nature of

ecosystem fearscapes and foodscapes. For the analyses presented here, we have assumed a static

relationship between length and mass, and the conversion of mass to joules (energy density of

tissue). Keeping these relationships constant ensured a common currency linking individual

energetic budgets to ecological changes in predation risk and foraging success. Exploring the

consequences of these relationships for differences among clades would be a natural follow-up to

our study. For example, while we did not directly address the interaction between of fisheries

induced selection and growth, it is a rich area of further investigation (Audzijyonte et al. 2016).

Plastic or evolutionary responses to fishing potentially include faster growth, earlier maturation

rates, and smaller maximum body sizes, but the consequences for marine food webs are complex

(Hočevar and & Kuparinen 2021). The framework introduced here potentially could capture how

eco-evolutionary feedbacks between fishing mortality, growth and mass relationships, and

ecosystem size spectra interactively affect trends in body sizes of focal species. Studies of the

interaction between fishing and size spectra have been focused on lake systems where food webs

have been studied in greater detail (Perälä and Kuparinen 2020). Understanding how these

physiological and ecological processes are linked is necessary to understand how species will

respond to different environmental changes and climate change scenarios; our findings suggest

that when predicting future growth patterns under projected changes in climate, several

ecological and physiological factors will play a greater role than temperature in determining

trends in body size.

Appendix. Optimization details.

Dynamic programming equations (Eq. 14) are constrained optimization algorithms with the

purpose of determining the optimal set of behaviors or decisions that maximize a quantitative

metric over time, such as lifetime expected reproductive success. A key property is that the

decisions at one time affect the state variables at the next time. When solving Eq. 14, we

consider how the allocation decisions an individual makes during one month of its life affect its

future size, energetic reserves (lipid stores) and chances of survival, and find the set of allocation

to growth and reproduction that maximizes its fitness in a given environment. We are able to

calculate lifetime fitness by solving the equation using backwards iteration. By starting at $t =$

$T - 1$, and assuming there is no possibility of future fitness (i.e., the second term of Eq. 14 is

equal to zero for all possible values of length and lipid stores) we can populate the array with the

fitness of all possible combinations of length, lipid stores, and allocation strategies at $t = T - 1$;

this fitness will be the first term on the right side of Eq. 14. This process is repeated, working

backwards, until $t = 1$. We can thereby determine the combination of g and r that maximizes

both current fitness at t, and the fitness expected from $t + 1$ until T, given the chance of survival,

length, and lipid stores (the future states in Eq. 12) resulting from that particular strategy.

Solving Eq. 14 in this way produces an array storing the proportional allocation to growth and

reproduction that leads to the highest lifetime fitness, for all possible combinations of size and

lipid stores (l and s) for every month until the final time T.

Solving a dynamic programming equation with two state variables, such as Eq. 14, is

computationally expensive, and we employed a number of techniques to make the iteration more

efficient and to approximate a smooth fitness surface. First, we constrained the parameter space

that was evaluated. Specifically, we used an integer index I (with a maximum of I_{max}) to

represent lipid stores s, converting the index to values in joules in the dynamic loop. We then

related the range of s we explored to each value of l (because lipid stores are constrained by l),

by setting

$$s = \frac{0.6 \cdot I^3 \rho a l_{max}^{\ 3}}{I_{max}^{\ 3}}$$

In other words, we adjusted the numerical step size for possible values of s to be finer for smaller

individuals. Furthermore, we used linear interpolation of state values (Clark and Mangel 2000)

when computing expected future fitness in Eq. 14 to minimize discontinuities on the fitness

landscape arising from the integer index of energetic state. We did not interpolate length, since

its unit (centimeters) was sufficiently fine-grained that there were minimal effects of

discontinuities.

All programming was done using R 4.1.1 and all code and model outputs will be available. We

ran the code to solve the dynamic programming equation and simulate the individual life

histories using Rscript commands from the Linux shell of a 2019 MacPro with 16 cores and 96

GB of RAM. Jobs were run in parallel and the runtime of each job was between 60 and 120

minutes. The results of each job are presented in the figures summarizing growth, reproduction,

and survival data; these analyses and figures were produced in the Rstudio IDE.

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 Table 1. Description of parameters and variables

Parameter or Variable	Description	Value
w	Body mass in kg	-
N	Number of individuals in a size category (or trophic level) when considering a Sheldon size spectrum	-
B	Absolute biomass in a size category (or trophic level) when considering a Sheldon size spectrum	-
κ	The spectrum parameter, which defines the total biomass of organisms of the smallest body size w in a given ecosystem; Andersen (2019) gives an estimate of 10 gained by averaging over all Predator-Prey Mass Ratio estimates measured from gut contents. We vary it to represent ecosystem differences in overall ecosystem richness	Varies
$Bprey$	Biomass of prey expected by a focal individual	-
μ_p	Instantaneous risk of mortality due to predation, which depends on body mass and position in the size spectrum	-
h	Predation risk, comprised of predator satiation estimates (estimated from gut contents) and predator preference (or effectiveness) for consuming prey of a given mass (Andersen 2019)	4, 8
τ	Temperature of the environment (in degrees Kelvin except where noted)	285-300
C	Metabolic requirements (costs) that scale with mass and temperature	-
c	Normalization constant scaling metabolic costs (in J), based on metabolic rate data from tunas (Kitchell et al. 1978)	5×10^{16}
k_B	Boltzmann constant, relating particle energy to temperature in units of $m^2\ kg\ s^{-2}\ K^{-1}$	1.3×10^{-23}
E	The average activation energy for the rate limiting enzymes in metabolism in units of joules; from the metabolic theory of ecology (Gillooly et al. 2001).	1.04×10^{-19}
θ	Metabolic scaling exponent; values vary among clade, here we use a value reported for tunas (Clarke and Johnston 1999)	0.66
ρ	The energy density of tuna body mass in our model in J/kg (estimated empirically and reported in Chapman et al. 2011)	4.2×10^6
t	Time in monthly time steps in the dynamic model	-
T_{max}	Maximum lifespan in months	216
$l, L(t)$	Body length (in cm) This is a dynamic state variable but can only increase with time. The maximum value possible is 400 cm. For a specific value, we use the capital letter notation.	-
$s, S(t)$	Lipid stores (in joules) – this is a dynamic state variable representing energy stores that can be used for metabolism, growth, and reproduction.	-
a	Scale coefficient relating length to structural mass, similar to values estimated empirically for bluefin tuna and reported in Pignalosa et al. (2020).	1.0×10^{-5}
$w(t)$	Structural mass of the individual (in kg) at time t – this depends on $L(t)$	-
υ	The fraction of structural mass that determines the critical threshold of energetic mass needed for survival	0.1
φ	The fraction of structural mass that determines the maximum possible reproductive output in a monthly time step	0.2
γ_{pred}	Survival from predation from one month to the next	
γ_s	Survival, given that the individual has sufficient energy reserves to meet metabolic requirements and avoid starvation	
g	Proportion of lipid stores allocated to growth (this allocation decision is optimized by the dynamic programming equation); can take values between 0 and 1	
r	Proportion of lipid stores allocated to reproduction (this allocation decision is optimized by the dynamic programming equation); can take values between 0 and 1 and the sum of g and r cannot exceed one.	
$R(l,s,t)$	Current fitness, the product of lipid stores and the optimal allocation to reproduction, r	
$V(l,s,t)$	Expected accumulated lifetime reproduction from time t onwards, given that $L(t) = l$ and $S(t) = s$	

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1014 **Table 2**

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1016 Parameter values for environmental scenarios corresponding to the three ecological lifestyles of
1017 tunas described in Fig. 3, with corresponding predicted body size and maximum observed fork
1018 length (cm) for three representative species (data from Juan-Jordá et al. 2016).

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Lifestyle	Environment	Baseline or winter temp	Yearly mean κ	*h*	Predicted body size	Representative species	Reported range of body sizes
Tropical shallow	Constant	26.85 C	0.1	8	62 cm	Frigate tuna	40-60 cm
Tropical deep diving	Constant	21.85 C	1	8	214 cm	Yellowfin tuna	125-231 cm
Temperate deep diving	Seasonal	11.85	2.5	12	361 cm	Bluefin tuna	203-427 cm

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1022 **Supplemental Table 1.** Model outputs corresponding to points in main text Figure 6. All
1023 scenarios had constant environments.

Temperature τ in °C	κ	Lifetime reproductive output (kg)	Maximum body length (cm)
11.85	0.25	2.15	109.5
11.85	0.5	5.87	173
11.85	1	15.51	224
11.85	2	38.94	289.1
11.85	5	123.77	390.4
16.85	0.25	2.08	101.5
16.85	0.5	5.9	159
16.85	1	15.2	222
16.85	2	37.97	289
16.85	5	121.95	384.3
21.85	0.25	2.02	98.4
21.85	0.5	5.65	159
21.85	1	14.73	214
21.85	2	36.93	282
21.85	5	119.28	380.3
26.85	0.25	1.85	92.4
26.85	0.5	5.33	151
26.85	1	13.85	202
26.85	2	35.15	274
26.85	5	115.73	373.4

Supplemental Table 2. Precise values for body lengths predicted in varying seasonality
scenarios for the same value of average κ. These data are complementary to Figure 7, where
scenarios that are constant or have seasonality in τ have a different average productivity κ. The
differences between different seasonal scenarios at lower average productivity ($\kappa = 1.25$)
disappear at higher average productivity ($\kappa = 2.5$). This suggests that the multiple factors leading
to the optimization of the growth-reproduction tradeoffs make the fitness landscape more
complex when productivity is lower.

Environment	κ	Length (cm)
Constant	1.25	238.1
Seasonality - κ only	1.25	275.2
Seasonality - τ only	1.25	272.2
Seasonality	1.25	267.3
Constant	2.5	305.1
Seasonality - κ only	2.5	347.4
Seasonality - τ only	2.5	347.4
Seasonality	2.5	347.2

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Supplementary Figure 1. The fitness increment expected with different amounts of lipid reserves (energy stores) Left panel: Fitness increment for an individual of 100 cm. Right panel: Fitness increment for an individual of 250 cm. We show the shape of the function for three values of f but for all analyses here we used $f = 1$.

Supplementary Figure 2. Main panel: The sigmoid relationship between lipid stores (in joules) and survival for individuals of different lengths. The threshold amount of energy required for metabolic maintenance is a fixed proportion of body mass. The probability of avoiding starvation $\gamma_s(s,l)$ is a logistic function of mass given in Eq. 13. Inset: closeup of the x-axis in the region encompassing the smaller threshold.

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1066   **Supplementary Figure 3.** Example rules for allocation to growth and reproduction for ages
1 and 16. The inviable region (dark blue) represents parameter space where remaining stores
are insufficient for survival, given the individual's length (in other words, energetic
requirements for maintenance are not met). Comparing panels within rows shows
differences between allocation to growth and reproduction as a function of state and length.
Comparing panels within columns shows how the tradeoff between growth and reproduction
changes with age. Note that the striations come from the discretization of allocation values
of *g* and *r* in Eq. 14.

Supplementary Figure 4. Top: The emergent pattern of survival to age at different levels of κ. Bottom: The natural log of survival to age. Dashed horizonal line shows the cutoff past which less than 3% of individuals will survive. For all results here, $h = 8$ and $\tau = 16.85°C$

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Supplementary Figure 5. The emergent pattern of ln(survival) to age at different levels of κ. Dashed horizonal line shows the cutoff past which less than 3% of individuals will survive. For all results here, $h = 8$ and $\tau = 16.85°C$.

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Supplementary Figure 6.
The emergent patterns of growth, reproduction, and survival that emerge when h varies. We contrast two values of κ to highlight that it is still the main driver of variation in body size, although h affects lifespan. In all scenarios, $\tau = 16.85°C$. Note that for results presented elsewhere, $h = 8$ except where noted.

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Supplementary Figure 7. Growth curves showing the effect of changes in the reproductive capacity φ, for two values of κ. As the reproductive constraint increases (the fraction of the body cavity that can be devoted to gonad decreases from 0.2 to 0.1), selection favors the evolution of larger body sizes. In all scenarios, $\tau = 16.85°C$. Note that for all results presented elsewhere, $\varphi = 0.2$.

Supplementary Figure 8.
Body size and lifetime reproduction for several values of κ and θ (the allometric exponent in the metabolic cost function). For all scenarios, temperature is constant year-round at 21.85°C.

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Supplementary Figure 9. Body size and lifetime reproduction for several values of κ and c (the normalization constant in the metabolic cost function). The estimate of c used elsewhere (5×10^{16}) comes from metabolic rate data from tunas (Clarke and Johnston 1999). For all scenarios, temperature is constant year-round at 21.85°C.

Supplementary Figure 10. Body size and lifetime reproduction for several values of κ and temperature, and three scenarios of spawning season duration. Note that the darker teal stars (corresponding to a three-month spawning season and a winter temperature of 16.85°C) match the fully seasonal scenario in the main text Fig. 7. Magenta points correspond to the scenario where individuals can spawn year-round.

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